



Larson Report

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

Milwaukee County Supervisor Christopher Larson, 14th District
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone: 414-278-4252 Fax: 414-223-1380
E-mail: chris.larson@milwcnty.com
Website: <http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/larson>



*Budget Blast
E-NEWS*

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Personnel (Vice-
Chair)

Parks, Energy and
Environment

Transportation,
Public Works and
Transit

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are your
thoughts on the
current budget for
2010?

Please call me or
send me an email
with your thoughts.

Dear Neighbor,

I wanted to give you a quick update on the 2010 County Budget and let you know about a Town Hall meeting and park cleanups coming up in our neighborhoods next weekend.

First, the budget: we are currently facing one of the worst budgets in Milwaukee County's history and, given our fiscal state, there are no easy solutions. I have been attending this month's Milwaukee County Finance & Audit Committee budget hearings. During the first meeting, the staff overview presented to the Committee made clear that the budget proposed by County Executive Scott Walker was not fiscally sound and could not be passed as introduced.

Among the biggest problems were wage concessions that would break both federal and state laws related to labor negotiations. The other major problem is that the Executive's proposed budget raises spending by about \$80 million, or more than 6%, over last year. To do this, it relies on taking on 3 years worth of debt at once, while pushing the real cost into the future. These budget holes have left the Board with the task of trying to figure out how to balance a common sense budget that can still maintain core services to our Milwaukee County communities.

It does sound tempting to pursue a "0% budget." But, given the level of cuts to our courts, parks, transit system, highway department, sheriff's department, emergency medical services and more, we would no longer live in the same community we now know.

It is hard to say what the final budget will look like. I encourage you to stop by the County Courthouse to hear the budget hearings for yourself in room 203-R. I will be there, working until we finish this budget.

Some of the amendments I have authored or co-sponsored include:

- Keeping open 6 pools originally slated for closure. This includes Holler Park pool, the only handicap accessible County pool.
- Changing Walker's aquatic center plan to build a new outdoor center for \$11.2 million and instead adding on to our two indoor pools, Pulaski and Noyes, to create 2 indoor year-round aquatic centers. We will also make \$1.5 million in improvements at these pools while keeping the overall cost to roughly half of Walker's original proposal.
- Keeping the airport fire department open. This is a tax-levy neutral amendment that keeps our experienced team intact as well as preventing millions in assets from being transferred to another entity.
- Keeping bus route 80 running to Puetz and MATC. Under the initial proposal, it would have ended at the airport.
- Eliminating the 25-cent bus transfer fee altogether. By restructuring the fees, we can encourage more people to use weekly or monthly passes, help prevent conflicts between passengers and drivers and eliminate transfer fraud.

Other things that will be coming for our neighborhoods in the 2010 budget:

- \$2.5 million in stimulus funds will go to the runway safety area project over College Ave.
- Holler Park Pavilion will see its downstairs bathrooms refurbished (and finally be usable once again).
- Shingles damaged by vandals at Humboldt Park Band Shell will be replaced.
- Pathways throughout Humboldt Park will be repaved.
- New gutters for the South Shore Park Pavilion

In Service,

Chris

Here's the link if you want to listen to budget meetings live:

<http://media.county.milwaukee.gov/room203r>

Here's where you can find the upcoming budget hearing schedule:

<http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/CountyBudgetHearings>

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/cntySupervisors/cntybrdstandingcommittees/FA/cntybrdbudgethearings/UnfinishedBusinessBgtHearingRevision2.pdf>

October Town Hall Meeting

During this tough budget, your voice is more important than ever. Please join me in a community discussion about the current state of Milwaukee County, and the 2010 budget.

Where:.....Wilson Park Senior Center - 2601 W. Howard Avenue

When:.....Tuesday, October 27th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

I hope you can make it. Please help spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

Come to the **Wilson Park Senior Center** to let your voice be heard.

Humboldt Park Clean Up

Join Park People, your neighbors, and me for a good old-fashioned Park Clean Up! Our parks are a great part of Milwaukee County's tradition and heritage, so it is very important we keep that legacy alive and maintain the beauty of our parks for future generations. We will work primarily on clearing out cattails around the lagoon across from the pavilion. Bring gloves and bags.

Where:.....Humboldt Park (at the pier across from the Pavilion) 3000 S. Howell Ave.

When:.....Sunday, October 25th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wilson Park Clean Up

Here is another great opportunity to meet some neighbors, have some fun and help beautify your neighborhood park. The Wilson Park Neighborhood Association and Help Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful are going to be putting on a Park Clean up as well as a **FREE Dinner Social** afterwards at **5:00 p.m.**

Where:.....Wilson Park Pavilion

When:.....Saturday, Oct 24th Cleanup at 3 p.m. Dinner at 5 p.m.

RSVP: TammyKukla@aol.com or (414) 383 - 2007 to plan for food count



Supervisor Larson, along with Supervisors John Weishan and Marina Dimitrijevic at Pulaski Pool for the announcement of the Alternative Aquatic Centers Amendment.